

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

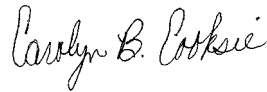
Notice FLP-216

For: State and County Offices

**Releasing Beta Test Software for the Debt and Loan
Restructuring System (DALR\$) 2000 Version 1.0.10**

Approved by: Deputy

Administrator, Farm Loan Programs



1 Overview

A

Background

DALR\$ 2000 version 1.0.10 is:

- scheduled for nationwide beta test release by the end of July 2001 to all DALR\$ Coordinators
- a platform-to-platform transfer of the DALR\$ software from the AT&T 3B2 Unix environment to enable the program to operate on a PC in the Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 environment.

B

Purpose

This notice:

- provides the DALR\$ Coordinator the authority to complete beta testing for their State
- provides information about the beta release of DALR\$ 2000 version 1.0.10 software

Note: DALR\$ 2000 version 1.0.10 is a beta test version and must be installed on the designated beta test equipment. Any reports generated through this version of DALR\$ shall not be used for official loan servicing transactions.

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Disposal Date

September 1, 2001

Distribution

State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

1 Overview (Continued)

B

Purpose (Continued)

- describes known system limitations and the appropriate corrective action, if applicable.

Note: All known software limitations that existed in DALR\$ 6.4 have not been corrected in DALR\$ 2000, version 1.0.10. Limitations that have not been corrected will be addressed in the maintenance phase of the next contracts.

C

Contact

If DALR\$ Coordinators have questions about:

- installing or uninstalling software, Microsoft Windows NT, or other CCE Operating System concerns, contact the State Computer Specialist or the FSA National Help Desk at 1-800-255-2434
 - software program use, implementation, and regulatory issues:
 - contact Sharilyn Hashimoto, Program Sponsor, LSPMD, at 202-720-2743 or by e-mail to sharilyn_hashimoto@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
 - use the DALR\$ Forum on BBS.
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D

Beta Testing Period

All DALR\$ Coordinators shall have DALR\$ 2000, version 1.0.10, installed on their respective PC or lap top computer, immediately upon receipt. The software is scheduled to be sent out by the end of July 2001. Beta testing will end on August 10, 2001.

The authorized user shall follow the installation transmittal for installing the software.

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1 Overview (Continued)

E

Installation Requirements for DALR\$ 2000

DALR\$ 2000, version 1.0.10, software must be installed on a microcomputer (PC), as a desktop or laptop, with a minimum processor speed of 200 MHz Pentium I and 32 MB RAM with the following minimum hardware/software configuration:

- Current CCE configuration with Windows NT 4.0, Service Pack 6 operating system
- CCE #4, Pre-Beta #5, CCCR No. 6&7 Issue 1 Beta, 000129_0001
- Docking Station (laptop only)
- 56 KPBS modem
- Ethernet NIC card or PCMCIA card
- Serial ports
- Parallel ports
- Video
- Keyboard
- Mouse ports
- Security lock
- Speakers
- VGA 640 X 480 video card
- Printer with graphics capability.

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1 Overview (Continued)

E

Installation Requirements for DALR\$ 2000 (Continued)

The following is a list of most of the equipment that should have the CCE Windows NT Platform:

- Dell Precision Workstation 610 Desktop
 - Gateway E4200-450 Desktop
 - Gateway E-3400 Desktop
 - Compaq Deskpro EP Desktop
 - IBMPC 300 PL Desktop
 - Q System Desktop with Windows NT coreload
 - Dell Latitude Cpi266XT Laptop
 - Dell Latitude CpiR400GT Laptop
 - Dell Latitude 266 (Appraiser) Laptop with Update 18
 - Dell 366 Laptop
 - Compaq Armada 1700 Laptop.
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2 Action

A

DALR\$ Coordinator Action

The DALR\$ Coordinator will act as the beta test site for their respective State. As part of the test requirements the DALR\$ Coordinator shall do the following:

- have an authorized user follow the release transmittal to install the software
- follow the System Administrator's Guide for instructions on migrating data from the 3B2 to the PC
- follow the User's Guide for using the DALR\$ software.

Testers shall use actual DALR\$ 6.4 reports to input into DALR\$ 2000. Using an actual report will create a basis for comparison with the output from DALR\$ 2000. At a minimum, testers should manually re-enter 5 DALR\$ 6.4 reports and generate the reports to compare between the 2 software versions. If available, the tester should select different outcome codes (reschedule/reamortization, deferral, writedown, buyout at net recovery, etc.).

If any problems are noted, complete Exhibit 1 and **submit via e-mail** to Sharilyn Hashimoto, at sharilyn_hashimoto@wdc.fsa.usda.gov. This is an electronic, fillable form and will be sent via e-mail to all DALR\$ Coordinators. **All** problem reports shall be completed and submitted electronically, **no exceptions**.

3 Changes to DALR\$ 2000

A

Changes to DALR\$ 2000

DALR\$ has been converted from a text-based screen display to a user-friendly graphical user interface.

B

Pre-existing Problems in DALR\$

Notice FLP-120 identified known problems and system limitations that existed in DALR\$ version 6.4

Exhibit 2:

- subparagraph A lists known problems and system limitations **not** corrected by DALR\$ 2000 version 1.0.10
 - subparagraph B lists known problems and system limitations that were corrected by DALR\$ 2000 version 1.0.10.
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C

Known Problems Identified In DALR\$ 2000

Through the development and testing process, a list of known problems has been compiled for DALR\$ 2000 version 1.0.10. See Exhibit 3. The majority of these problems will be addressed in future software enhancements.

Example of Problem Report

The following is an example of the problem report form that will be completed and submitted to the Program Coordinator via e-mail. This is an electronic, fillable form named "betaprobrpt.doc". This form has on-screen help text to assist the tester in completing the form. The form will be e-mailed to all DALR\$ Coordinators.

DALR\$ 2000 VERSION 1.0.10 BETA TEST PROBLEM REPORT		
NAME:	STATE:	DATE:
TYPE OF PC OR LAPTOP(E.g., <i>Dell Laptop 266 MHz/Compaq 400 MHz, etc.</i>):		
PROBLEM NO (Start from 001 - >): 001		
AREA OF PROGRAM PROBLEM (E.g., Data Entry on BBI Screen, Report Generation, etc.):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:		
SCREEN PRINTS ATTACHED?		
DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM (Be as detailed as possible. Also, step-by-step description of how you created the problem is helpful.):		
RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS:		

Note: Use the following instructions to attach screen prints to the written problem report.

- Hold down the "Alt" key and press the "Print Scrn" key to capture the screen image.
 - On a blank MS Word document, place the cursor where the image will be inserted, by left clicking on the mouse. Right click the mouse and select "Paste" from the drop down menu. The screen print should appear on the page.
 - Save this document and send it with the problem report.
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Known Limitations Of DALR\$ 2000 Version 6.4

A**Known
Limitations Not
Corrected by
DALR\$ 2000
Version 1.0.10**

The following limitations that existed in DALR\$ version 6.4 have **not** been corrected by DALR\$ 2000 version 1.0.10:

- new loan authorized limits – adjust new loan amount override
 - new loan authorized limits – adjusting the new loan amount due to payment to be received override
 - incorrect first year payment amount shown in proposed new loans requested section of the DALR\$ report for annual expense (AOE) loans
 - amount of the proposed payment at full note rate on new FSA debt printed on the summary section of the DALR\$ analysis report can be incorrect
 - the wrong adjusted balance available is printed in the detailed section of the DALR\$ analysis report
 - cash flow margin for after deferral year is printed as negative \$1.00 in the detailed section of the DALR\$ analysis report
 - the filing date for prior lienholders for property types NIP, NER, and NEC are not printed in the net recovery property section of the DALR\$ analysis report
 - a deferral payment of \$1.00 can appear in the payment during deferral in the summary section of the DALR\$ analysis report.
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B**Known
Limitations
Corrected by
DALR\$ 2000
Version 1.0.10**

The following limitations that existed in DALR\$ version 6.4 have been corrected in DALR\$ 2000 version 1.0.10:

- calculated maximum term available in the existing loan screen could be incorrect
 - incorrect maximum term for loan type operating nonfarm (ON)
 - incorrect maximum loan term for new loans with loan types Operating Loan (OL), Operating Nonfarm (ON), or Operating Recreation (OR)
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Known Limitations of DALR\$ 2000 Version 6.4

B**Known
Limitations
Corrected by
DALR\$ 2000
Version 1.0.10
(Continued)**

- incorrect maximum loan term for new loans with fund code 43 and loan type Emergency Operating (EO)
 - cursor movement from the Softwood Timber pop-up screen moves to the wrong field
 - printed dates in the DALR\$ analysis report
 - unequal payments not printed in the input section of the DALR\$ analysis report.
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Known Problems/Limitations Identified In DALR\$ 2000 Version 1.0.10

Screen/ Area Affected	Description of Limitation	Corrective Action/Comment
Basic Borrower Information	System will accept a date of Writedown/Writeoff (WD/WO) greater than the Proposed Loan Servicing Date.	Verify date entered in for WD/WO is before the Proposed Loan Servicing Date.
	System will not recognize a date entered in "mmddyyyy" format.	Enter dates the format "mm/dd/yyyy" Slashes are mandatory.
Existing Loan Screen (ELS)	Unequal Payment Pop-up Screen will automatically appear only upon initial entry into the ELS screen. When editing existing information the Unequal Payment Pop-up Screen is not accessed automatically.	"Shift" + "F5" or double click in the "Accrual Date" field to access the Unequal Payment Pop-up Screen. (click anywhere in the field, except the drop down arrow, to call the pop-up).
	Max. Term Field: When payment code "T" is entered for softwood timber with a fund code of 44 (OL), this field automatically defaults to 15 years.	User must enter the original note date for softwood timber and manually change the maximum term available.
	EO loans cannot be consolidated per regulations, but DALR\$ 2000 will allow entry.	Consolidation is allowed only for AP or MB loans.
	"Maximum Term Available" field recognizes entries of 0 through 50, user may have to manually enter the correct maximum term available.	Review "Maximum Term Available" field and verify against Original Note Date.
	Note maturity date that is entered when the servicing action for a loan is coded "N", is not cleared from the field when the user changes the servicing code to something other than "N".	No corrective action necessary. Retained data does not affect calculation process.
	When entering the first loan into ELS, if unequal payments are applicable, the Unequal Payment Pop-up Screen will not be automatically displayed upon entry into the "Accrual Date" field.	This is a limitation in the Microsoft Grids component. The user must exit the "Accrual Date" field after entering data and the Unequal Payment Pop-up Screen will be displayed on screen.

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Known Problems/Limitations Identified In DALR\$ 2000 Version 1.0.10 (Continued)

Screen/ Area Affected	Description of Limitations	Corrective Action/ Comments
Existing Loans/ High-Medium-Low (HML) Calculations Screen	When user navigates through the application by using "Next Page" and comes to the HML Screen, user must run HML or cancel. If user cancels, any edits previously made to the Security Priority in ELS will be deleted. User will be notified in the report generation screen that HML has not been run.	User should be aware of the consequences of clicking on "Cancel" in the HML Screen.
Loan Interest Rate	When adding a new record only one record can be added at a time.	Form is single add only.
	In "ADD", if the user enters initials and then tabs back to the "Date" field, the user will be in search mode. Therefore, if the user enters an existing date, the user will not receive the "this record already exists" validation, but the record will be brought up on the screen.	User should be aware of the sequence for data entry with this particular screen.
Maintain/View County Codes	User highlights a record and only a portion of the record is highlighted. This indicates that the user is in edit mode.	This is a standard Windows functionality.
NRC	User selects "ADD" and tries to enter a date that already exists, then user selects "CANCEL". The I-bar moves to the "entered by" field, the user must select "CANCEL" again. Upon initial entry into the screen, the user is in edit mode. User must select "ADD".	This is a limitation of the Microsoft Grids component.
New Loans	The "Term" field validation recognizes 1 to 50 years. If entered an OL loan with a maximum term of 7 years then change to FO with maximum term of 40 years. Application recognizes 7 years as a valid entry and will not automatically change the data.	User must verify term is correct. If necessary, manually correct to proper maximum term.
	System does not always give you the automatic adjustment on loan limits validation when you have existing loans.	User must verify that loan limits are correct.
Net Recovery Property (NRP)	Rounding issues on NRP screen not consistent with DALR\$ 6.4.	DALR\$ 2000 rounds consistently throughout the program whereas DALR\$ 6.4 was inconsistent.

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Known Problems/Limitations Identified In DALR\$ 2000 Version 1.0.10 (Continued)

Screen/ Area Affected	Description of Limitations	Corrective Action/Comments
NRP	DALR\$ 2000 is case sensitive. If a user enters the same lien holder in the previous lien pop-up screen more than once and uses upper case and then lower case letters, the system recognizes this as 2 separate lien holders.	User must be consistent in data entry.
	User must click "OK" to save/commit data or data will be lost. If user wants to cancel a partial entry, they may want to highlight the record and delete.	User must verify the action they wish to accomplish and select accordingly.
	On the Loan Secured Pop-up Screen, ranking of prior lien holders occurs in the order that the user inputs data.	This is a known DALR\$ 6.4 limitation.
	Depreciation field is accessible with property type "CAS".	Since no NRC exist for property type "CAS", user may want to code as "CHL" if depreciation expense is needed.
Report	DALR\$ report will only print to the default printer. The user will have to change default printer settings, if printing to a different printer.	If applicable, check the printer default location and verify if correct.
	User should not click on "X" in upper right hand corner to close out view of DALR\$ report. User must select "CLOSE" icon. If user clicks on the "X" to close, the document will not close properly and the user will have to go through additional steps to close the document.	This is a limitation of MS Word.
System Settings	DALR\$ 2000 may not display properly, that is, top and bottom of screen view may be cut off or buttons will be partially cut off.	In "Display Properties", the "System" settings must be "Windows Standard" and "small fonts" for the software to display properly.